

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 29th July —, 1886.

Sir,

I regret to Report that the Anthracite coal we have been receiving and employing in Melting our Silver is wholly unfit for the purpose. It is too soft to produce the heat, absolutely necessary for melting in a given time, for which purpose the hardest coal is required. It produces a large amount of ash, and is therefore more costly, without resultant effect, because deficient in amt. of heat. Moreover, the ash is so full of iron, that a very large amount of Cinder is produced, that requires constant punching to free the sides of the furnace, and obtain a good draft. Altogether through deficiency of heat in a given time, — through

waste of time in endeavoring to produce a melting, — through loss of time and heat from choking through cinder, — this coal is the worst coal we have ever had for melting, and I donot think it exaggration to say that it costs the Government 50 pr.ct. more than the best Council Ridge coal, hand picked, — this last being the only coal we have ever found just suited to our purpose and most economical, even at a much heavier cost. With the present coal, I doubt whether we can produce the large amount of Ingots demanded by the Government, in the usual day's work, nor within 33 pr.ct. of that amount.

Very respectfully.

J. C. Booth

Hon. D. M. Foy,

M & R

Superintendent

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
Melting and Refining Department,
Philadelphia,
July 20, 1886

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I regret to Report that the anthracite coal we have been receiving and employing in Melting our Silver is wholly unfit for the purpose. It is too soft to produce the heat, absolutely necessary for melting in a given time, for which purpose the hardest coal is required. It produces a large amount of ash, and is therefore more costly, without resultant effect, because deficient in amt. of heat. Moreover, the ash is so full of iron, that a very large amount of Cinder is produced, that requires constant punching to free the sides of the furnace, and obtain a good draft. Altogether through deficiency of heat in a given time, - through waste of time, in endeavoring to produce a melting, - through loss of time and heat from choking through cinder, - this coal is the worst coal we have ever had for melting, and I do not think it exaggeration to say that it costs the Government 50 pr. ct. more than the best Council Ridge Coal, hand picked, - this last being the only Coal we have ever found just suited to our purpose and most economical, even at a much heavier cost. With the present coal, I doubt whether we can produce the large amount of Ingots demanded by the Government, in the usual day' work, nor within 33 pr. ct. of that amount.

Very respectfully,
Jas. C. Booth
M & R

Hon. D.M. Fox,
Superintendent